

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 12968 190701Z
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCA-01 /073 W
-----095297 190710Z /14

R 190147Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3934
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
CINCPAC
CINCPACREPPHIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12968

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, RP
SUBJECT: UNDERSECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE CRISOL ON
HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

REF: (A) MANILA 12825, (B) MANILA 12583

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CALL AUGUST 17 ON UNDERSECRETARY OF
NATIONAL DEFENSE CRISOL BY LT. GEN. (RET.) HERBERT BECKINGTON,
CONSULTANT TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE,
CRISOL COMPLAINED THAT PRESS REPORTS ON TREATMENT OF DETAINEES
IN THE PHILIPPINES WERE IRRESPONSIBLE AND BIASED. HE REFERRED
BY WAY OF EXAMPLE TO THE AUGUST 15 TIME MAGAZINE WHICH
CONTAINS AN ARTICLE INDICATING THAT OF 1000 DETAINEES MARCOS
HAS PROMISED TO RELEASE, ONLY 17 ARE POLITICAL PRISONERS.
CRISOL SAID "I HAVE THAT LIST AND THERE ARE 300 POLITICAL
SUBVERSIVES ON IT." CRISOL SAID THAT THESE DISTORTIONS
HAPPEN BECAUSE REPORTERS DON'T COME TO SEE HIM OR TO VISIT
THE DETENTION FACILITIES, PREFERRING INSTEAD TO "TAKE THEIR
DISTORTED AND FALSE INFORMATION FROM COFFEE SHOPS AROUND
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PAGE 02 MANILA 12968 190701Z

TOWN." CRISOL STRESSED THAT THE GOP HAS AN "OPEN DOOR" POLICY
AND WELCOMES "ANYONE TO COME AND SEE EVERYTHING."

2. CRISOL SAID THAT TWO REPS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
ARE NOW IN TOWN AND WILL BE SHOWN EVERY DETENTION FACILITY
AND EVERY DETAINEE WHICH THEY MIGHT WANT TO SEE. CRISO SAID
THAT HE HAD JUST READ THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

REPORT (REF A) AND LAMENTS THAT BUTLER AND HUMPHREY HAD NOT COME TO SEE HIM WHILE THEY WERE HERE. IN CRISOL'S VIEW, THE REPORT IS IN MANY RESPECTS NOT TRUE.

3. COMMENT. CRISOL INTERJECTED THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN THE MIDST OF DISCUSSION ON U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM KOREA (SEPTTEL), APPARENTLY BECAUSE HE WAS SEETHING OVER THE TIME ARTICLE HE HAD JUST READ. AS THE MAN CHARGED IN DND WITH OVERSEEING THE DETENTION PROGRAM, CRISOL SEEMED PERSONALLY STUNG BY THE TIME CRITICISM AND WANTED BECKINGTON TO KNOW THAT THE GOP HAS NOTHING TO HIDE. WE ARE STILL SEEKING AN ACCURATE FIX ON THE MEMBERS OF "POLITICAL PRISONERS" INCLUDED IN THE RECENT DETAINEE RELEASES. TIME'S FIGURE OF 17 IS CLOSE TO THE AMRSP TASK FORCE'S FIGURE OF 21 (REF B) AND MAY QUITE POSSIBLY BE BASED ON AMRSP DATA. THESE FIGURES ARE A FAR CRY FROM THE 300 "POLITICAL SUBVERVISES" WHICH CRISOL ASSERTS ARE ON THE RELEASE LIST. THE PROBLEM MAY BE DEFINITIONAL; WE WILL TRY TO FIND OUT. WE WILL ALSO SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT IRC VISIT ALTHOUGH IN THE PAST IRC MISSIONS HERE HAVE TENDED TO SHUN THE EMBASSY. PERHAPS GENEVA MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SOME INSIGHTS INTO THIS VISIT. STULL

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